

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EUR-25 SAM-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /119 W

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R 190400Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1570

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8160

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: CHIANG CHING, EXPOUNDER OF MAO

REF A. HONG KONG 8029; B. HONG KONG 7946

SUMMARY. A THIRD MAJOR COMMENTARY ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF CHIANG CHING'S POLITICAL DEBUT SIGNIFICANTLY HAILS HER AS AN EXPOUNDER OF MAO THEORY. IF THIS DISTINCITION WERE TO BE WIDELY RATIFIED IT COULD ADD VERY MEASURABLY TO HER POWER POSITION. THUS FAR, HOWEVER, THE PUFFS FOR HER COME FROM PROBABLE CLAQUES, AND THE PROVINCES HAVE YET TO PICK IT UP IN RESPONSE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN THE ATEST TRIBUTE TO THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF HER KEYNOTE SPEECH ON OPERA REFORM, CHINAGN CHING IS CREDITED IN PEOPLE'S DAILY AS AN EXPOUNDER OF MAO THEORY. WE RECALL ONLY TWO OTHER RECIPIENTS OF THIS HIGH DISTINCITION IN RECENT YEARS: THE ONE-TIME MAO SUCCESSOR BUT NOW DEAD AND DISGRACED LIN PIAO; AND CHOU EN-LAI, WHEN HIS STAR WAS HIGH IN 1973 (1973 HONG KONG 2516). IF DEVELOPED AND WIDELY ACCEPTED, THE DISTINCITION CARRIES CONSIDERABLE
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POTENTIAL POWER.

2. THIS NEWEST PRAISE FOR THE CURRENTLY LIONIZED MADAME MAO APPEARS IN A FULL PAGE ARTICLE IN THE JULY 16 ISSUE OF PEOPLE'S DAILY. THE PASSAGE IN POINT SAYS HER JULY 5, 1964 SPEECH "ELABORATEDLY EXPOUNDED THE BRILLIANT THEORY OF CHAIMAN MAO.." THIS IS THE THIRD SUCCESSIVE MAJOR ARTICLE COMMEMORATING HER DEBUT TEN YEARS AGO AS A KEY REGIME FIGURE AND REVOLUOCW'-.)3-\$34, AND ANNIVERSARY HONOR AS WE COMMENTED EARLIER, WHICH HAD BEEN RESERVED FOR MAO'S FEATS ALONE (REFTELS). CHOU LOOKED TO BE COMIN IN FOR SUCH LIVING-LEGEND TREATMENT IN 1973, BUT THE SLY REFERENCES TO HIM THEM PALE NOW IN COMPARISON TO THESE HEARTY BOOSTS FOR HER.

3. SIGNIFICANTLY, HOWEVER, THIS LATEST PAEAN TO CHAING CHING IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE WRITING GROUP OF PEKING AND TSINGHUA UNIVERSITIES, WHICH WE BELIEVE POSSIBLY TO BE CULTIVATED BEDS OF SUPPORT FOR HER. THE TWO PREVIOUS ARTICLES WERE BOTH ATTRIBUTED TO CULTURE CRITICS WHO HAVE SPRUNG UP IN THE CURRENT POLITICAL MOVEMENT. ONE OF THESE, CHU LAN, IS GENERALL ACCEPTED AMONG ANALYSTS TO SPEAK FOR CHINAG CHING; WE LIST THE OTHER, CHIANG TIEN, UNDER THE SAME BANNER ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN THOUGHFUL APPRAISALS IN WASHINGTON WHICH RAISE DOUBTS ABOUT THIS AND VIEW CHIANG TIEN AS A CHOU SUPPORTER.

4. SETTING ASIDE THIS LATTER, POSSIBLY IMPORTANT HITCH, WE SPECULATE THAT THUS FAR ALL OF THE CENTRAL MEDIA PRAISE FOR CHIANG CHING ON THIS OCCASION COMES FROM HER CLAQUES. IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT THEY SHOULD SEEK PRIME MEDIA SPACE AT THIS TIME, BUT NOT SURPRISING THAT THEY CAN COMMAND IT. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER WHTY WILL WEDGE OUT ACCEPTANCE FOR HER AUTHORITY BEYOND THE CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL SPHERES.

5. THUS FAR ONE PROVINCE, HUPHE, HAS COME UP WITH A RADIO BRADCAST PRAISING CHIANG CHING IN THE TIMEFRAME OF THIS ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION (HUPEH RADIO JULY 14). THAT BY ITSELF WOULD BE A PIDDLING POOR SHOW OF PROVINCIAL RESPONSE TO A RED FLAG ARTICLE AND TWO PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLES. PSOTERS ELSEWHERE, HOWEVER, PRAISING HER GUIDANCE OVER THE MOVEMENT, ARE SIGNIFICATN.

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6. CHAING CHING' LAST COMPARABLE MEDIA VENTURE CENTERED ON HER PSEUDONYMOUS PERFORMANCE AS THE CELEBRATED PHOTOGRAPHER IN THE 1971 JULY-AUGUST ISSUE OF CHINA PICTORIAL AND IN LIBERATION ARMY PICTORIAL ON THE VEN OF LIN PIAO'S FALL (1971 HONG KONG A-275). HER PHOTOGRAPHIC COMMENTARIES THEN, WHICH INCLUDED SYMBOLISTIC PRAISE OF THE MILITARY AND A RARE, PIQUANT SHOT OF THE SELF-CONSCIOUSLY BALD LIN PIAO WITHOUT A HAT, RATED PRAISE FROM PEKING AND SINKIANG, PLUS

SOME NOTICE FROM HONG KONG'S COMMUNIST CIRCLE (1971 HONG KONG
6881; 1971 HONG KONG 7425). AT THIS POINT, SHE HAS YET TO CATCH
BIGGER FIRE TODAY AMONG OFFICIAL COMMENTATORS IN THE STICKS.
CROSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ARTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974HONGK08160
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740194-0726
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740735/aaaabdqo.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. HONG KONG 8029; B. HONG KONG 7946
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHIANG CHING, EXPOUNDER OF MAO
TAGS: PINT, CH, (CHIANG CHING)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005